WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

National Advisory Council

1624. SHRIARUNJAITLEY:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Advisory Council has been constituted in June;2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its legal and constitutional position and the organizational structure of the Council;

(c) the details of the expenditure earmarked, relationship with Prime Minister's Office, the objectives, functions, responsibilities, accountability and authorities, if any, entrusted to the said Council; and

(d) brief details about antecedents of individuals inducted as members thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Advisory Council (NAC) was constituted by the Government *vide* Order dated 31st May, 2004.

(b) The NAC is headed by a Chairperson with the rank and status of a Union Cabinet Minister and can consist of upto 20 Members. The present number of Members is 11.

The NAC is an independent advisory body whose advice/ recommendations would be submitted to the Government and are subject to the normal scrutiny and processing of the Government. The decisions of the Government on the advice/recommendations of the Council will be final.

(c) The Council is supported by a Secretariat and can engage the services of experts and academics to assist in its work. An amount of Rs. 1.56 crores has been earmarked for expenditure for the year 2004-05. All expenditure incurred in connection with the functioning of the Council and its Secretariat is to be met by the Central Government.

For administrative purposes, funds for such expenditure will be provided through the Prime Minister's Office.

The functions of the Council are:

(i) To advise the Government on implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme.

(ii) To provide input for the formulation of policies by the Government.

The Council will be accountable to the Government in the same manner as all governmental advisory bodies are.

(d) The Council Members include academics, economists, representatives of the voluntary sector and technical experts. The brief details of the Chairperson and the Members are in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Chairperson and Members of National Advisory Council

1.	Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson	Member of Parliament; former Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha
2.	Smt. Aruna Roy, Member	Former civil servant, social worker and reformer; winner of Roman Magsaysay award;
3.	Shri CH. Hanumantha Rao, Member	Agricultural Economist; Chairman of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies; former Member of Planning Commission.
4.	Shri Jairam Ramesh, Member	Member of Parliament
5.	Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Member	Former civil servant, writer and expert on governance, electoral reforms, health, etc; physician by training
6.	Dr. Jean Dreze, Member	Mathematical Economist; Member of the Faculty of Delhi School of Economics
7.	Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, Member	Former Secretary, Industries, GOI; former Chairman in several PSUs
8.	Dr. Madhav Chavan, Member	Educationist

9.	Shri A.K. Shiv Kumar, Memebr	Member, UNDP Human Development Report team; visiting lecturer in Harvard University; Special Adviser, UNICEF
10.	Dr. D. Swaminadhan, Member	Chairman, Swaminadhan Research Foundation, Hyderabad; former Member, Planning Commission; educationist, agricultural scientist and planner
11.	Shri Sam Pitroda, Member	Communications and IT expert; former Chairman, Telecom Commission
12.	Dr. N.C. Saxena, Member	Former civil servant, former Secretary, Planning Commission; expert in natural resources management, community forestry, etc.

Cottage industries in Rajasthan and Punjab

1625. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Rajasthan and Punjab for developing cottage industries in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years to the States and the rate of development of cottage industries in the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) has made a request for Rs. 20.00 crores for 2004-05 under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for the promotion of village industries including cottage industries, against which Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has allocated Rs. 15.16 crores.

Punjab State Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) has made a request for Rs. 12.16 crores for 2004-05 under REGP against which KVIC has allocated Rs. 9.82 crores.